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out of place here, but, as we perused these pages, we felt that there were some grave deficiencies. We suggest that the contents of the volume hardly justify its title. In the highest and best sense it is scarcely a history. It is rather a careful, critical compilation of the facts of history. The philosophy of these facts, for the most part, is not seriously even attempted. The causes of these protests of which the author treats are not to any great extent revealed.

Not only an adequate philosophy of history is wanting in these pages, but there is also an almost utter absence of the historical imagination. The author writes of events which in heroism and tragic interest are hardly exceeded in the whole history of the church, but the reader of this volume receives but the faintest hint of it. History is the representation of individual and congregated life, and is full of significant action. He only truly and scientifically writes history who makes this life real to the intelligent reader, and reveals to him the cause or causes of this action. The author of this volume has with great industry and accuracy brought out from their hiding places the facts pertaining to the antipedobaptist movement, but, it seems to us, has failed so to group and explain those facts as to give us the real history of that movement.

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THE BAPTISM OF ROGER WILLIAMS. A Review of Rev. Dr. W. H. Whitsitt's Inference. By HENRY MELVILLE KING. With an Introduction by Rev. Jesse B. Thomas, D.D., Professor of Church History in the Newton Theological Institution. Providence: Preston & Rounds Co., 1897. Pp. x + 159; cloth.

IN THIS monograph Dr. King, the scholarly and highly esteemed pastor of the First Baptist Church in Providence, R. I., subjects to a critical review the chapter concerning the baptism of Roger Williams, with which Dr. Whitsitt, in his little volume, *A Question in Baptist History*, closes his discussion of the beginnings of the practice of immersion among the Baptists in England. In that work, having insisted that the English Baptists first adopted immersion for baptism in or about 1641, Dr. Whitsitt in an appendix presents such evidence as he can find with reference to the baptism of Roger Williams and his associates at Providence in 1639, and closes his examination of this evidence with these words: "In the present state of information it

would be unwise to pronounce with certainty any conclusion regarding this question. However, within the limits of the uncertainty which is freely acknowledged, the weight of evidence appears to incline very clearly towards the view that Roger Williams was sprinkled and not immersed at Providence in 1639."

After a reference to this "somewhat contradictory utterance" and the consideration of some objections to Dr. Whitsitt's treatment of the English question, Dr. King follows Dr. Whitsitt along his chosen path of investigation. It is close following. Dr. King is familiar with everything pertaining to the history of the First Baptist Church in Providence, and his examination of Dr. Whitsitt's discussion is as able as it is thorough. Again and again he shows that Dr. Whitsitt's interpretation of contemporary records is only "a refinement of ingenuity." For example: Dr. Whitsitt quotes from Gov. Winthrop, and also from Rev. Hugh Peters, of Salem, an account of the baptism of Roger Williams, in both of which it is spoken of as a "rebaptism." Dr. Whitsitt admits that this word does "not positively settle the question regarding the act employed;" but he thinks that in the mouths of these men "that word could hardly point to anything else than to the act of sprinkling or pouring." But Dr. King furnishes a passage in which the General Court of Massachusetts, in referring to the baptism of a little group of persons at Seekonk in 1649, used the word "rebaptized" where the rebaptism (as we know from a passage in a letter of Gov. Winthrop under the date of November 10, 1649) was an immersion.

Thus, page after page, Dr. King follows Dr. Whitsitt in the examination of his inferences. His work, however, is constructive as well as destructive. The fact that Roger Williams and his associates were immersed at Providence in 1639 he establishes as firmly, doubtless, as it is now possible to do.

HENRY S. BURRAGE.

PORTLAND, ME.

REVIEW OF DR. JESSE B. THOMAS ON THE WHITSITT QUESTION. By REV. GEORGE A. LOFTON, D.D. Nashville, Tenn.: Nashville University Press Co., 1897. Pp. 118; paper.

THIS is a supplement to an earlier work by Dr. Lofton entitled, *A Review of the Question*, meaning the Whitsitt question. In the *Western Recorder*, in a criticism of this earlier work, Dr. Thomas expressed the opinion that Dr. Lofton had "misread" Crosby. In